

House Republican Press Release

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REP. BELDEN ANNOUNCES HOUSATONIC RAILROAD CROSSING ADVANCES



Will Help to Re-connect Shelton to the River

HARTFORD – State Rep. Richard O. Belden, Republican of Shelton, said legislation he sponsored has advanced out of committee to help re-establish downtown Shelton to the Housatonic River through a pedestrian crossing on the Housatonic Railroad's Maybrook line.

“All at-grade rail crossings require legislative approval to insure they are safe and necessary,” noted Rep. Belden.

Rep. Belden said that this project is critical in creating greater access to the river and fits in with a statewide strategy to re-connect communities to one of Connecticut's greatest natural resources. “With the resurgence of redevelopment along the river,” Rep. Belden added, “it is important to install this crossing and eliminate the illegal crossing of the track that is taking place in that location.”

The Transportation Committee has sent the legislation to the state Senate where it awaits action.

“This is an important step forward for this legislation that will greatly benefit the people of Shelton. We are re-establishing access to wonderful recreational resources such as the Housatonic River throughout Connecticut, and I believe this project fits with that mission and vision,” Belden said.

The crossing must also be approved by the city of Shelton and the Housatonic Railroad Company. It is to be constructed near Canal and Bridge streets and must meet specifications from the state Department of Transportation.

There is no estimate price tag associated with the construction, according to the legislation.

Belden said, “I appreciate all the support this proposal has drawn from the committee and look forward along with the rest of the legislative delegation to working with the House and Senate leadership to bring this matter forward this session.”

The legislative session is scheduled to conclude the session May 3rd.